

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### INVITATION

You are cordially invited to the Opening Reception of Los Altos Hills Artist  
Karen Drucker

Sunday, June 11, 2006

2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Los Altos Hills Town Hall

26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills

Light Refreshments

Brief Biography:

Karen has lived in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills with her husband Dr. David Drucker for 38 years and maintains a studio in Los Altos Hills. Karen's paintings in this exhibit include churches, landscapes and everyday objects in series, starting realistically and progressively becoming more abstract. She hopes that seeing the progression from realistic to abstract will help viewers understand abstraction.

### HOPPIN' HOUNDS EVENT HAVE DOGS

#### HOPPIN' HAPPY

More than 100 dogs and their owners braved morning rain to attend the Parks and Recreation Department's and 5 Paw Bakery-sponsored third annual Hoppin' Hounds Easter Egg Hunt on April 15 at Westwind Barn and Byrne Preserve. The event raised \$650.00 for the Palo Alto Animal Services and Shelter which serves the Los Altos Hills area.

Five Paw Bakery of Los Altos, co-sponsor of the egg hunt, donated 1,500 fresh-baked pet treats the shape of large Easter eggs. Volunteers spent the early part of Saturday morning hiding the treats in Byrne Preserve. Owners walked their leashed dogs through Byrne to sniff out the treats. Event Director Tod McLenore said he was impressed with the turnout. "Los Altos Hills is a very friendly dog community."



### HIDDEN VILLA

#### FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

Hidden Villa announces a free outdoor summer concert series for residents of Los Altos Hills, Los Altos and neighboring communities. Four twilight shows will be held on consecutive Sundays - July 16, 23, 30, and August 6. Concerts start at 6:00, at the Visitors Welcome Center of Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road in Los Altos Hills. Audience members can picnic on the lawn.

The series will feature popular Bay Area groups performing a wide range of music, including big band, reggae, swing, and bluegrass. Appearing on the series will be the Joe Sharino Band (July 16), Dale FX (July 23), The New Moxy Show (July 30), and Hot Buttered Rum (August 6).

Hidden Villa's concert series is underwritten by the Town of Los Altos Hills; Borel Private Bank and Trust Company; The Kalish Team, Intero Real Estate, Los Altos; and the Los Altos Community Foundation.

For information, phone Hidden Villa Community Programs at (650) 949-9704 or see [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org).



### WESTWIND — YOUR HOMETOWN BARN

If you haven't visited Los Altos Hills' own Westwind Community Barn lately, you could be missing out!

• Did you know that Westwind has year-round riding programs run by the Park & Recreation Dept. with school horses for kids and adults?

• Or that Los Altos Hills residents have priority when it comes to boarding their horses at Westwind?

• Or that Los Altos Hills residents with horses at home can use Westwind arenas for a low yearly fee?

Whether you are interested in riding, making new friends, finding a riding buddy, learning more about horses, or enjoying the beauty of Byrne Preserve and the horses that graze its hillsides, visit us today to discover fun, friendship and a chance to learn...right in your own backyard! For more information contact Westwind at 941-6113. Or visit our website at [www.westwindcommunitybarn.org](http://www.westwindcommunitybarn.org)



Layout & printing by:  
 Print Innovations, Inc.

Town of Los Altos Hills  
26379 Fremont Road  
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Los Altos, CA  
Permit No. 308

Presentation of Colors  
LAH Youth Commissioner  
& Community Relations  
Committee Initiates New  
Program Adopted by City  
Council to Develop:

- civic pride and involvement in government.

Students & youth organizations to present colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Council meetings.

New Program to start in June 2006.

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER



Los Altos Hills

## TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XLIX No. 2 June 2006

### CALENDAR

June 2, Friday Los Altos Hills  
Salute to the Mayors  
Dinner: 6:30 PM;  
Crown Plaza Hotel,  
Palo Alto



June 4, Sunday  
LAH Town Picnic,  
Little League Fields,  
1-4 PM

June 6, Tuesday  
Election Day, Don't  
Forget to VOTE! See  
[www.Smartvoter.org](http://www.Smartvoter.org)  
for your polling place.

June 10, Saturday  
LAHIA Trail Ride;  
Meet at Town Ring  
10:30 AM; See  
website at  
[www.Lahia.org](http://www.Lahia.org)

June 22-25; Relay  
for Life, Los Altos  
High School; Info:  
Jeanne MacVicar 917-  
7979

July 8-9 Los Altos  
Art & Wine Festival.  
10AM-6PM; Info:  
949-5282

### Public Education Progress Report

Perhaps no issue helps define community more than local schools. While Los Altos Hills has participated in three high quality school districts, there has been an erosion of public elementary schools from four to zero over time. The Public Education Committee was formed 2 1/2 years ago to study the issue and recommend actions. Earlier this year, the PEC voted unanimously to recommend redistricting, but split on the ideal type of redistricting.

The City Council chose to seek redistricting only if a negotiated solution could not be obtained with our public school districts. On April 27 the City Council decided sufficient progress had been made on a specific set of terms for returning public education to Los Altos Hills to make a negotiated solution the first choice. It is expected that the terms will all be agreed to by the school districts by the June 8th City Council meeting. Then we will proceed to legally binding agreements to ensure the permanent presence of a public elementary school in Town available to all elementary students whose parents choose to enroll them. This solution both brings a community school into Town and provides the option of attending Loyola, Covington or Nixon elementary schools and maintains current boundaries for Egan and Terman middle schools, and Los Altos and Gunn high schools.



#### FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE OF LOS ALTOS HILLS PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

##### Term Sheet 30-day checkup

1. A public school at the Bullis-Paradise site
  - Serves all residents of Los Altos Hills, both PAUSD and LASD sides of our town
  - Signed agreement for 20+ years as a public school; longer term for specific town-funded facilities
  - BCS on site so long as it has a charter
2. Bullis Charter School will be occupied so long as it has charter
  - BCS will have space for 380 students with option (minimal agreement) to grow to 480
  - LASD will have space for up to 100 students to support LASD program (but not another K-6)
  - Occupancy by Dec '07
3. For the first time ever, all LAH children have option to attend the same K-6 school
  - Preference for LAH children who choose to attend BCS; no limit on PAUSD-LAH enrollment
  - LASD and PAUSD will support a State Board of Education waiver for preference for LAH children
  - BCS will receive funding from PAUSD; for PAUSD-LAH children who attend BCS (when LASD is Basic Aid)
4. New playing fields & Community center for LAH at the Bullis site
  - LASD will renovate the Bullis site, beginning in 2006, to the quality of other LASD elementary schools
  - Town of LAH will provide funding to enhance the Bullis site; e.g. recreation, infrastructure, solar panels
  - Bullis Foundation has right to fund construction of new buildings on Bullis site
5. BCS will receive support for a smooth transition
  - BCS to be chartered by SCODE; plus to transfer charter to LASD charter within 5 years of rechartering as permitted by law. Tied by both BCS and LASD to #8 below
  - Shared site. As access is needed to multipurpose room or other shared facilities, BCS Superintendent and LASD Superintendent shall manage on evenhanded manner
  - LASD will provide additional portables for BCS at Egan during the transition, to support growth and current educational programs. LASD shall also provide access to the Egan multipurpose room on an as-needed and as-available basis
6. Equal funding for all LASD public students
  - Concept is for all students within LASD, whether attending BCS or District-run public schools to receive the same amount of tax-payers funding on a per student basis



## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### ACTING CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

#### Dear Residents:

In February, the City Council appointed me to serve as Interim City Manager while they recruit for the position of City Manager with the assistance of executive search firm Avery Associates. The search should be concluded by late spring/early summer. I am appreciative of the Council placing their confidence in me to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Town Government during this interim period.



Acting City Manager & Planning Director Carl Cahill

I am happy to report that the Town enjoyed a busy social calendar this past quarter. Town sponsored events included the 3rd annual Hopkin' Hounds Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th. Over 125 attendees accompanied their canine pals on a hunt for specially colored dog biscuits hidden in the Byrnes Preserve. The Earth Day Celebration and Big Cate Exhibition at Westwind Barn is a perennial favorite and this year was no exception. The majestic animals enthralled over 600 during individuals who attended the daylong event. It was not all play for the Earth Day weekend. Residents helped clean Town pathways resulting in nearly a half ton of trash deposited in a dumpster at the Town Hall parking lot. It is encouraging to see such community spirit. The 5th Annual Pathway Run also staged at Westwind Barn rounded out the quarter on May 7th with more than 130 in attendance. I personally attended this event - specifically the 1-mile "Fun Run" with two of my children who marveled at the scenic beauty of the Byrnes Preserve while they effortlessly scampered up hills that I hitherto thought were passable only by mountain goats.

The City Council has been active on the policy front this quarter contemplating several measures in the areas of energy conservation and urban forest management. The Council adopted a revised development area ordinance that exempted ground-mounted solar panels from development area calculations of up to 500 square feet. The Council also approved in concept a development area bonus for residents who install roof-mounted solar systems subject to very specific limitations. This legislation is pending and will not likely take effect until late July. A new local energy standard is also scheduled to go into effect in late summer. New homes not yet permitted will be expected to exceed State Title 24 minimum energy efficiency standards by 15%. With regard to urban forest management, a Townwide tree hazard assessment survey was authorized by the City Council in the aftermath of a January storm that caused trees to topple over through out the Town resulting in one fatality. The Survey Report was completed in April and identifies trees that present an obvious, imminent risk of uprooting and/or large limb failure onto primary public streets. The Town Public Safety Officer is serving written notice to owners of affected properties to have the hazardous trees removed. If you would like a copy of the Report, please contact Public Safety Officer Steve Garcia at 941-7222 or sgarcia@losaltoshills.ca.gov

The City Council is also committed to an ambitious public

works/capital improvement plan this year. Some projects now underway this quarter and scheduled for completion by the end of the year include over a mile of new roadside pathways, a new Town riding arena paid for with State Park Bond funds, connection of the Town Little League Fields and Corporation Yard to sanitary sewer and completion of the Pine Lane Sanitary Sewer Diversion Project. The completion of this project will result in additional sanitary sewer connections being made available to Town residents in the Los Altos Sanitary Sewer Basin.

Finally if you are visiting Town Hall anytime soon, please welcome Judy Host, our new front desk receptionist and office specialist. Judy was hired in March and we are all very impressed with her cheerful disposition and ability to simultaneously manage the phones while still accomplishing a multitude of other tasks quickly and efficiently.

— Carl Cahill, Acting City Manager & Planning Director

### SEWER STUDY UPDATE

The Town is served by two sewer systems. The north side of Town is served through the Palo Alto system. The Town has secured sufficient capacity for practically all homes in the north basin to connect to the sewer system.

The south side of Town is served through the Los Altos sewer system. Since 2001, the Town has not been able to provide residents with sewer connections because Los Altos had concerns about the capacity of their system and was not timing any more connection rights until their consultants completed a master sewer study.

The sewer study was completed last year and there is available capacity. Los Altos has provided 75 connection rights available immediately to the Town for its citizens. In addition, the Town is negotiating a new sewer agreement with Los Altos that will provide capacity for all homes the south side plus the San Antonio Hills unincorporated area. We hope that this new agreement will be completed by the Fall of this year. Any homeowner in the south side of Town who wishes to connect to the sewer system should contact Henry Louie, Public Works Director at Town Hall (650) 941-7222.

### Parks & Recreation Openings

Space is still available for the Ohlone Camp and Riding Camp in June and July. Contact: Tod McLemore, Recreation Director at (650) 941-7222 x 241 or TMLemore@losaltoshills.ca.gov

For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website:  
[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Volume XLIX No. 2 June 2006

### Environmental Initiatives Committee

Los Altos Hills Shows Energy Leadership with Energy Efficiency/Photovoltaic Ordinance When it comes to household energy use, Los Altos Hills is among the highest 2% of northern California communities. The Environmental Initiatives Committee (EIC) proposes changes to our Town's ordinances that will help us take a leadership role in energy efficiency and photovoltaic (PV) power generation that also makes economic sense to the homeowner. Changes being proposed will completely pay for themselves in energy savings in just 5-10 years!

The Town has already eliminated permit fees for new PV installations. The EIC is proposing new ordinances that would require, for all new homes, either ENERGY STAR Home certification or 15% improvement in building energy efficiency over the existing state efficiency requirements. PV systems would count toward this improvement. The new ordinances would also permit just administrative review of new PV systems within certain height and size limits and would exempt 500 square feet of freestanding PV structures from lot development limits.



Expert studies performed for the EIC, and input from the California Energy Commission staff indicate this is achievable with a modest cost of \$1.2 per square foot that will pay for itself in energy savings. There are all-ENERGY STAR Home developments in Santa Clara County, and PG&E even offers rebates for ENERGY STAR Homes. The proposed ordinance also includes a hardship provision to deal with unique circumstances.

The EIC believes Los Altos Hills will be the first community in California to adopt a local residential energy efficiency requirement applying to all new homes and the first community to adopt the ENERGY STAR Home performance standard.

### Underground Utilities Update

The two pilot projects for undergrounding the town's utilities (on Purissima and Altamont) are scheduled to have PG&E engineering resources assigned in July. We all hope they will keep to the schedule.

But these projects — when completed in a year or two — will bury only a few thousand feet out of the 63 miles of overhead utilities criss-crossing our town. Burial of these lines helps with reliability, with public safety, and — most noticeably! — with aesthetics.

As we strive to be more "green" in our town of lovely hills & views, we hope to find a financially viable way to bury all the remaining wires. The Underground Utilities Committee is making progress on such a plan, and we hope to present it to residents for consideration later this year.

Please stay tuned.

— Underground Utilities Committee



Work at corner of Purissima & Altamont Rd.

### Do You Love Horses? Do you enjoy working with children? We can use your help!

The Westwind Riding Institute/4-H is a non-profit organization offering riding lessons to children with physical handicaps. We need volunteers (age 14 or older) who will help groom and lead horses and walk alongside riders during lessons. No experience is necessary, just a love for horses and a dedication to the very special children in our program. Monday and Thursday 4 to 5 p.m. and in July Mondays 7 to 8 p.m. We also need help with fundraising, public relations, and administrative work. Please call Westwind 4-H at 947-8680.



### Earth Day Celebration

#### Great Success!

Between 700 and 800 people attended the Town of Los Altos Hills fifth annual Earth Day Celebration at Westwind Barn. Thirty-two groups - conservation, environmental, and recycling organizations, school groups and LAH Town committees participated in the event. The wild cats of Leopards, Etc. were a featured attraction. Shoshone, a two-year old cougar (mountain lion) appeared for the first time at Westwind. Nakuru, a serval cat, amazed the audience with his ability in leaping to seize prey. The afternoon's event was also highlighted with a special presentation featuring a great horned owl - the most widespread North American owl species and one of our most powerful birds of prey. The demonstration was provided by the local Sky Hunters organization showing one of their educational birds. In addition to the booths of nearly three dozen organizations, local visitors were on hand to share their knowledge and acquaint the public with their wines.

The Earth Day Celebration was sponsored by the LAH Open Space Committee.



LOS ALTOS HILLS

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### Pathways Cleanup

The Town's pathways got a thorough clean up on Earth Day. On Saturday, all residents were invited to participate. Volunteers took off on foot on paths and roadsides on April 21st and 22nd, armed with trash bags, gloves and vests provided by the town's Pathway Committee.

Bullis Charter School students kicked off the event, which the Pathway Committee plans to make an annual tradition. The children, accompanied by teachers and parent volunteers took off on foot by Byrnes Preserve, Purissima Road and other parts of the town, covering 22 miles of pathways, collecting an estimated over 800 pounds of trash.



### Covington Wins California Distinguished School Award

Covington Elementary School, the Los Altos School District school serving over 130 Los Altos Hills children, has been awarded the California Distinguished School designation for 2006, after only three years in operation.

The award "honors some of the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools. Schools selected for Distinguished School Awards are strong, well-rounded community schools," says the Web site for the program. Distinguished Schools must excel in academics, teaching staff skills and professional development programs, media and technology services, support for children with special needs, and must foster a school culture that promotes inclusion, responsibility, fairness, and other positive character traits.

"While winning the Distinguished School Award is always an honor, it is truly remarkable for a school that has only been open three years," said Principal Leslie Crane. "I am so proud of our students and teachers, and so grateful for the support of the parents and the community."

Covington students, decked out in their school colors of vivid orange and blue, celebrated their achievement in April with speeches, cheering, and bright orange poppicks.



### Recycling in LAH Just Got Easier

Single stream recycling now allows you to put all your recyclables (not yard waste) into a single 96-gallon rolling cart available from Los Altos Garbage Co. (650) 961-8040. A recent flyer included in the Los Altos Garbage Co. billing indicates what is recyclable. Also, look for a flyer in your future billing about curbside Electronic Waste pickup. See: [www.losaltosgarbage.com](http://www.losaltosgarbage.com)



### Opera professionals and BCS students seize the stage in Gilbert and Sullivan's hilarious "The Pirates of Penzance"

What happens when singers connected to a world-class opera company, and students from an innovative elementary school share the stage? "Magic!" enthused Wanny Hersey, Principal of the Bullis Charter School in Los Altos, who, along with professional singers from San Francisco Opera's outreach program, rehearsed more than two dozen students for a joint performance of "The Pirates of Penzance" at Foothill College April 30. "As a charter school, we are so fortunate to be able to expand on opportunities as they present themselves and create deep experiences for our students," said Hersey, herself an accomplished musician.

We were lucky that we got to do this performance with them," said David Kirk who was seen shaking hands with SF Opera Guild musical director, Baker Peoples, and Opera a la Carte coordinator, Ellen Kerrigan after the show. "The singers were cool!"

This "lucky" break arrived through San Francisco Opera's "Opera a la Carte" program, where elementary students take part in rehearsing and performing a reduced, English-language version of an opera along with professional opera singers. Earlier in the school year, the group visited and performed with the charter students in one of the school's portable classrooms. Parents were so impressed with the performance, they arranged to stage a special production in Foothill college's full-sized theatre in honor of Los Altos Hills 50th Anniversary. Parent, John Swan spearheaded the effort.

Because opera encompasses all the arts - various styles of dance, music, drama - it provides inspiring avenues for children to connect to their passions, while learning about history and cultural traditions," said Swan. "We were delighted to be able to bring the show to our town as a thank you to our community supporters."



### Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2006 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is July 31, 2006.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

About Our Publication  
The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committee.

Editor: Dorothy Daily Price

Assistant Editor: Ruth Bland, Susan Bland, Penny Winkler

Los Altos Hills City Council

Heather Kane, Mayor • Dean Westwind, Mayor Pro Tem

Chris Jones, Steve Minko • Mike O'Malley, Recycled Paper



LOS ALTOS HILLS